pay of the head masters of Government High Schools and those of aided ones. In consideration of the quiet and useful work in which schoolmasters were engaged, he pleaded that an increase of pay might be given to them and the invidious differences of treatment that now existed in the Educational department might be removed for ever.

Mr. M. Bhaskara Menon, B. A., B. L., (Parur) represented that it was not possible to get the best men to teach the primary classes as their present pay was so miserably low, but the whole question depended upon finance, and all that he could do was to request Government to take up the question of improving the status of primary school teachers as early as practicable.

Reply.—Government consider the subject of education as no less important than others and it will claim their attention equally with the latter. As regards the difference of pay mentioned by Mr. Eapen, it cannot be helped, as the institution at the Capital is looked upon as a model institution and the same differences obtain in British India also. I need only cite the instance of the Kumbakonam and Rajmundry colleges on the one hand and the Presidency College in Madras on the other. This difference does and must exist here as elsewhere. So far as increments are concerned, they were fixed long ago and it is doubtful whether at this distance of time it is advisable to alter them. Anyhow, the suggestions made by the members will be kept in view and relief afforded whenever possible.

163. Necessity for the introduction of an Inspection Code for the Educational department.

Mr. T. Marthandan Tampi, B. A., (Trivandrum) observed that this was a subject which he had brought forward last year and Government then promised early consideration. The introduction of an Inspection Code would help the position of teachers and private school managers considerably and act as a wholesome check on the irregularities of the inspecting staff.

Reply.—Detailed instructions are being issued from time to time to the Inspectors, and after watching their effect, the subject of codification will be taken in hand.

164. Protest against the raising of fees in boys' schools and the levy of fees in girls' schools.

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Mr. Narayanan Madhaven Karthavu (*Shertallay*) represented that last year the members of the Assembly prayed for the introduction of free and compulsory education in the State, and it was an unpleasant surprise to them to learn from the Government Gazette that the fees for boys would be increased in all the classes and that even girls who were hitherto studying free would be charged half the fees levied on boys. He requested that, as this was throwing a permanent obstacle in the way of the advance of education, the recent rules might be repealed.

Mr. T. Marthandan Tampi B. A., (*Trivandrum*) said that the fact that in British India heavy fees were charged did not warrant the introduction of the same rates in Travancore also, as the first English school in this State was a free school and the majority of the people were too poor to pay even the existing fees.

Mr. A. Harihara Iyer (*Chirayinkil*) said that fees should not be raised as proposed, but that if this were not possible, the number of scholarships at least should be increased in every school to enable poor and intelligent pupils to benefit by the same. At present, the rule was that if the recipient of a scholarship failed once in any examination, he would lose it immediately. He suggested that as this was hard two chances might be given to those boys to enable them to continue their studies.

Mr. S. Krishna Pillai (*Tiruvallah*) prayed that fees might be abolished in primary schools altogether and that if deemed necessary the loss to Government on this account might be recouped by the imposition of increased fees in secondary schools. He also urged that no fees should be charged for the instruction of girls either in primary or in secondary schools.

Mr. R. Nambi Iyer (Tovala), Mr. V. Sankaranarayana Iyer (Agastisvaram), Mr. Padmanabha Pillai (Eraniel), Mr. P. Mathevan Pillai (Nanjanattar Sabha, Nagercoil), Mr. Mathevan Kesavan and Mr. Kanakku Mathevan Kesavan (Neyyattinkara), Mr. Kanakku Mathevan Mathevan (Nedumangad). Mr. R. Narayana Pillai (Ettumanur), Mr. K. Chidambara Iyer B. A., L. T., (Changanachery), Mr. Kuruvila Devasya (Minachil), Mr. P. Kesava Pillai B.A., B. L., (Quilon), Mr. R. Narayana Iyer and Mr. Kanakku Parameswaran Krishnan (Kottarakara), Mr. N. Kesavan Valiathan (Kartigapalli), Mr. N. Govinda Pillai (Kunnattur). Mr. Kesavan Padmanabhan (Mavelikara), Mr.

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N. Madhavan Valiathan (Tiruvalla) and Mr. C. Padmanabha Pillai (Karunagapalli), also spoke on the subject.

Reply.—What is now sought for is the rescission of an order of Government already passed. This is not practicable, especially in the present case. On the advice of the Madras Government and with a view to set free a larger fund for primary education, the present rates of fees, which were admittedly too low, were raised in the College and in the High and Middle Schools for boys, and fees were for the first time imposed for girls at half the rates for boys in similar classes. Fees in Vernacular schools were also slightly increased leaving the primary classes free in all schools. In all Vernacular girls' schools, primary departments of English girls' schools, and all schools for backward classes, instruction is still allowed to be imparted free. The fees prescribed are, in the opinion of Government, moderate when compared with those outside the State and are not incommensurate with the standard of instruction imparted or the liability of the people to contribute towards the cost of education. Government regret that no alteration in the new fee regulations is now possible.

165. Introduction of certain reforms for the advancement of female education.

Mr. S. Swamy Iyengar of Trivandrum (Nominated) suggested that all girls' schools might be placed entirely under the supervision and management of cultured ladies. To make female education really valuable, it was necessary to provide special arrangements for imparting instruction in girls' schools on national lines. Girls should be taught all those lessons which would be of practical utility to them at home and in society. They should be instructed in the elements of health and sanitation, in the art of cooking and growing vegetables, in sewing and in the ideals of life and traditions of their ancestors with the necessary adjustments that might be suited to their modern environments. It was also necessary that they should be made to familiarize themselves with the vernaculars of the country.

Mr. R. Narayana Pillai (Ettumanur) prayed for the appointment of a Lady Superintendent even by reducing the number of Range Inspectors to two.

Mr. P. Raman Tampi, B. A., M. L., (Trivandrum) said that the appointment of Inspectresses to supervise girls' schools was one of the subjects brought forward by him last year and, as he learnt that

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